Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04275 311701Z ACTION EUR-12

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R 311558Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1599
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, PO

SUBJ: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS:

- 1) NUCLEAR PLANT
- 2) CONVENTIONAL THERMAL POWER GENERATION

REF: LISBON 3208

1. DURING MAY 28 LUNCHEON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND MINES, BAYAO HORTA, PROVIDED FOLLOWING GENERAL INFORMATION ON PORTUGUESE NUCLEAR PROGRAM. GOP-PREPARED WHITE PAPER JUSTIFYING NUCLEAR PROGRAM WILL BE SENT TO ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL IN LATE 1977. AT SAME TIME, GOP WILL ANNOUNCE AND REQUEST ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR TOTAL ENERGY SECTOR POLICY. GOP DOES NOT EXPECT TO MAKE ANY AWARD TO SUPPLY REACTORS UNTIL 1978 OR EVEN EARLY 1979. WHEN QUERIED, SECSTATE STATED HE DID NOT EXPECT FIRST REACTOR TO BE ON-STREAM UNTIL 1987 OR 1988. HOWEVER, HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT GOP HAS DECIDED TO GO FORWARD WITH NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

2. DURING SAME DISCUSSION SECSTATE STATED 1000 MEGAWATTS OF NEW PETROLEUM FUELED THERMAL GENERATION CAPACITY WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE FIRST REACTOR ON STREAM. THIS 1000 MEGAWATTS IS IN ADDITION TO PRESENTLY PLANNED SETUBAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITS III AND IV OF 250 MEGAWATTS EACH (SEE REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: COMMATT HAS INFORMED GENERAL ELECTRIC PORTUGESA OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM INFORMATION. GE ALSO MET WITH SECSTATE AND IS PROCEEDING WITH PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL TO GOP TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR PLANT. SUGGEST USDOC/MEXPD ADVISE WESTINGHOUSE IN U.S.

	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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